Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Keep your disability workforce up to date by circulating this alert widely in your organisation

Disability provider alert

2 February 2022

Vaccination hubs for people with disability, their carers and disability workers

Over the coming weeks more vaccination hubs offering specific services for people with disability, their carers, and disability workers – will be available. For more information visit **disability vaccination clinics.** This page also has links to state and territory websites that have information about vaccination clinics for people with disability, and other contact information specific to your state and territory. If you have a vaccination clinic or hub you would like us to promote, please **let us know**.

The **Vaccine Clinic Finder** is still the main method to book an appointment.

Supporting access to boosters

The Department of Health and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission strongly encourages NDIS providers to take all necessary steps to assist participants to access COVID-19 vaccination where they need assistance to do so, including boosters. Refer to the provider alert issued by the NDIS Commission on **7 December 2021** for more information.

Booster doses and in-reach service

People with disability who have completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine at least **three months ago** are eligible for a booster dose. Booster doses are available through Commonwealth vaccination providers, either through in-reach or a dedicated disability hub. They are also available through other channels such as a GP, pharmacy, or state or territory vaccination clinic.

All Disability service providers for disability residential accommodation settings have been contacted by a Commonwealth vaccination provider to organise in-reach for booster doses. Additionally, in-reach clinics, are also offering doses 1 and 2 for those yet to receive their primary doses.

For more information about on-site vaccination read the **COVID-19 vaccination – Disability residential accommodation checklist.**

If you have an enquiry, you can contact **DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@Health.gov.au**

Other ways to get a booster vaccine

When you or a person you support becomes eligible to receive a booster vaccine, you can access a booster through any of these ways:

- Use the **COVID-19 Clinic Finder**. The Clinic Finder also has information about:
    - getting help from a translator
    - booking for someone else
    - disability vaccination clinics.
- Talk to a doctor (GP)
- Visit a pharmacy that is administering COVID-19 vaccines.

TGA approves Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5 to 11-year-olds

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine as safe and effective for use among children aged 5 to 11 years old. The Australian Government has started rolling out the Pfizer vaccine to 5 to 11-year-olds from 10 January 2022.

To book an appointment visit the **Vaccine Clinic Finder** webpage or call the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787 Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)).

The following resources are available to support discussions with children about the COVID-19 Vaccine.

- **How to speak to kids about COVID-19 vaccines**
- **COVID-19 vaccine information for children, teens and parents/guardians**

New NDIS RAT claiming arrangements

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC has confirmed that eligible NDIS participants can **purchase rapid antigen tests with funding from their NDIS plan.** This will ensure safe access to their supports in current COVID-19 outbreaks.

COVID-19 webinar for people with disability

The Australian Government held a webinar for people with a disability on 20 January 2022.

Click here to view the webinar recording.

COVID-19 vaccination consent, hesitancy and refusal: Webinar recording

A webinar for disability service providers on supporting clients with intellectual disability

The Australian Government held a webinar for disability service providers on issues of vaccination consent, hesitancy and refusal that can arise when supporting clients with intellectual disability.

Click here to view the webinar recording.

New practice standards for emergency and disaster management

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has introduced new **NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators** for registered NDIS providers. These will support registered providers in the delivery of safe

and quality supports and services to NDIS participants in times of emergency and disaster – including during sustained disruptions such as COVID-19.

National Coronavirus helpline and the Disability Gateway

The National Coronavirus Helpline now offers enhanced help to callers with disability, their family/friends or carers looking for information and advice about **COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines.**

For more information these people should call the helpline on 1800 020 080 and select Option 5.

Disability and aged care workers should select Option 4. This dedicated worker line can answer questions about vaccination and help book a vaccination appointment.

People with disability can also access support through the **Disability Gateway website** or by calling 1800 643 787 Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)). This is a **free service** that also can help people make a booking to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

See this video - How to use the Disability Gateway

Association for Children with a Disability (ACD Vic) Q&A

The Association for Children with a Disability hosted a Facebook Live Q&A with the Victorian Department of Health on 11 January 2022, about vaccinations for 5–11-year-olds children with disability.

Click here to watch the recording.

What's new on the Department of Health's website

- Updated information for **disability support workers** (including information about vaccine mandates).

Follow us on Facebook

Don't miss the latest news and updates about COVID-19 and other health matters – follow **the Department of Health on Facebook**.

- **Did you know we have digital resources to assist people with disability to access COVID-19 vaccine information?**